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Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 — review session

Outcomes of the regional implementation meetings for the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation") adopted at the World Summit for Sustainable Development in 2002 stated that the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit should be effectively pursued at the regional and subregional levels, through the United Nations regional commissions and other regional and subregional institutions and bodies.

2. The Commission on Sustainable Development, at its eleventh session, invited the regional commissions, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Commission, to consider organizing regional implementation meetings in order to contribute to the work of the Commission, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and in collaboration with other regional and subregional organizations and bodies, as appropriate, as well as the regional offices of funds, programmes and international finance and trade institutions and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system. Such meetings should preferably be held before the review session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and should:

(a) Contribute to advancing the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

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(b) Focus on the thematic cluster of issues to be addressed in the ongoing implementation cycle;

(c) Provide input to the Secretary-General's reports and the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Those inputs may include identification of obstacles and constraints, new challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and sharing of lessons learned and best practices;

(d) Provide for contributions from major groups, taking into account paragraphs 139 (g) and 149 (c) and (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

3. Pursuant to the invitation of the Commission on Sustainable Development, all United Nations regional commissions organized regional implementation meetings in their respective regions prior to the twelfth and the fourteenth sessions of the Commission. The regional implementation meetings were organized within the framework of relevant regional forums or as separate meetings. The outcome documents of the regional implementation meetings provided input to the Secretary-General's reports and created a good basis for the regional discussions held during the twelfth and fourteenth sessions of the Commission.

4. As a contribution to the work of the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which will undertake a review of progress achieved at all levels in the implementation of commitments, targets and goals on the thematic cluster agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa, the regional commissions, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Commission and other regional and subregional organizations, organized regional implementation meetings.

5. The Regional Implementation Meeting for Africa was held in Addis Ababa from 22 to 25 October 2007 within the framework of the fifth meeting of the African Committee on Sustainable Development. The outcome document of the meeting is contained in addendum 1 to the present note.

6. The Regional Implementation Meeting for Western Asia was held in Cairo from 4 to 6 November 2007 in association with the ninth session of the Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region. The outcome document of the meeting is contained in addendum 4 to the present note.

7. The Regional Implementation Meeting for Asia and the Pacific was held in Jakarta on 26 and 27 November 2007. The outcome document of the meeting is contained in addendum 2 to the present note.

8. The Regional Implementation Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Santiago on 28 and 29 November 2007. The outcome document of the meeting is contained in addendum 3 to the present note.

9. The Regional Implementation Meeting for Europe and North America was held in Geneva on 28 and 29 January 2008. The outcome document of the meeting is contained in addendum 5 to the present note.